



CANNON BUILDING
861 SILVER LAKE BLVD., SUITE 203
DOVER, DELAWARE 19904-2467

STATE OF DELAWARE
BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

TELEPHONE: (302) 744-4500
FAX: (302) 739-2711
WEBSITE: DPR.DELAWARE.GOV
EMAIL: customerservice.dpr@state.de.us

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES:	Board of Examiners in Optometry
MEETING DATE AND TIME:	Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.
PLACE:	861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Dover, Delaware Conference Room B, Cannon Building
MINUTES APPROVED:	

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Jeffrey Hilovsky, Professional Member, President
Dr. Bryan Sterling, Professional Member, Secretary
Dr. Joseph Senall, Professional Member
Diane Maddex, Public Member
Prameela Kaza, Public Member

DIVISION STAFF/DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL PRESENT

Kevin Maloney, Deputy Attorney General
Lisa Smith, Administrative Specialist II

OTHERS PRESENT

David Mangler, Director, Delaware Division of Professional Regulation

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Hilovsky called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes of the April 2, 2014 meeting. Dr. Senall made a motion, seconded by Dr. Sterling, to approve the minutes as presented. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

New Business

Review of Application(s) for Internship

The Board reviewed the application for Internship from Daniel J. Baruffi. Dr. Hilovsky made a motion, seconded by Dr. Senall to approve Daniel J. Baruffi to begin his 6-month internship. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Review of Application(s) by Reciprocity

The Board reviewed the application from Linda C. Tromburg. Dr. Hilovsky made a motion, seconded by Dr. Senall to approve Dr. Tromburg's application by reciprocity. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Unfinished Business

A discussion took place in regards to the Delaware Professionals' Health Monitoring Program pamphlet which was included in the Board Member folders. David Mangler explained the purpose of the DPHMP stating that the Voluntary Treatment Program is now run through a Contracted Service that provides the direction for the individuals to develop treatment and also monitoring options. There is a third party that takes care of the entire program. Previously the VTO was an entirely voluntary program and there are still individuals that are enrolling under the "voluntary" status which protects their license status. Another part that the DPR is using the vendor for is to monitor those individuals who are under Formal Disciplinary Orders for treatment and monitoring. The DPHMP not only monitors substance abuse issues, but mental health issues as well. The Goals of the DPHMP are as follows:

1. Supporting both public and workplace safety.
 2. Helping licensees with substance use and mental health issues to recover and continue working safely.
 3. Helping keep experienced, trained professionals employed.
- Dr. Hilovsky requested that the Delaware Optometric Association be made aware of the Program.

The Board members discussed the process to upgrade from a Diagnostic to a Therapeutic Optometrist. Deborah Hamilton stopped by the Division on the day of the Board Meeting. Ms. Hamilton could only say that the proposed Bill would be discussed at a meeting on April 28, 2014 to continue the dialogue with Ophthalmologists which began at a meeting in early April 2014. Dr. Hilovsky asked Kevin Maloney if there would be any other process needed in order for the transition to take place. Mr. Maloney stated that there really isn't anything else that should be done because the Statute imposes the Regulation that explains which procedures can be performed by a Therapeutic Optometrist and cannot be performed by a Diagnostic Optometrist. Mr. Maloney suggested that this discussion should be placed on the agenda to be reviewed by Jennifer Singh at the July 23, 2014 Board meeting.

In conclusion to this subject, Dr. Hilovsky suggested that a simple Rule be implemented which states that if you are licensed as a Therapeutic Optometrist, you will practice as such. If you are licensed as a Diagnostic Optometrist, your practice will be limited by your certification. If a licensed Diagnostic Optometrist would like to transition to a Therapeutic Optometrist, they will need to follow the process which would help them become licensed as a Therapeutic Optometrist.

During the review of the proposed updates to Title 24, Chapter 21, Dr. Hilovsky stated that while reading through the updates he felt that there were a few noted changes that were not necessary. The Board members decided to review the first few pages of the Regulation in order to make needed changes. Mr. Maloney stated that there was an Executive Order issued by Governor Markell that requires every State Agency to reevaluate their Regulations to see if there is anything to add, delete or change in order to make the Regulations more efficient. Upon initial review of the Regulation, the Board found that the language was weak and somewhat vague. The Board members mainly discussed Title 24, Reg. 2.0 "Qualifications and Examination" with the discussion focusing on the passing score which is determined by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry.

Ms. Kaza suggested that the Professional members of the Board do "homework" by reviewing and making notes to the first half of Title 24 for review and further discussion at the July 23, 2014 Board meeting.

Ratification of Continuing Education Requests

The Board reviewed a Continuing Education request from Eye Care of Delaware, LLC. Dr. Sterling made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hilvosky to approve the Continuing Education request. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD (FOR DISCUSSION ONLY)

There was no Other Business before the Board at the April 23, 2014 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment at the April 23, 2014 meeting.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 23, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. in Conference Room B, 2nd floor, Cannon Building, 861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Dover, Delaware.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Dr. Senall made a motion, seconded by Dr. Sterling, to adjourn the meeting. By unanimous vote, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Smith".

Lisa Smith
Administrative Specialist II

The notes of this meeting are not intended to be a verbatim record of the topics that were presented or discussed. They are for the use of the Board members and the public in supplementing their personal notes and recall for presentations.

